WEST AFRICA

West Africa No. 2911
26th March, 1973

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EXAMINING THE EXAMINERS

Examinations are news in West Africa. Unhappily they tend to become big news only when something has gone wrong, such as leakage of examination papers. This is one reason why the West African Examinations Council is far better known to the public than its counter-parts elsewhere in the world. But how many of those who read so eagerly reports of such lapses realise that in the West African Examinations Council the four Commonwealth West African countries, to whom Liberia is now added with "associate" status, have created an organisation of high calibre and great importance? It is now common-place that the council is the only survivor of the "inter-territorial" institutions established in colonial days to serve the then four British West African colonies – West African Airways, the West African Currency board, the research institutes, and the rest. But it has not only survived. As it celebrates its 21st anniversary this month (an article appears on page 397) it can record remarkable expansion and considerable success. The head office is still in Accra, but there has been considerable and efficient decentralisation. There is now a very big office in Lagos, and centres in Ibadan, Enugu and Kaduna, as well as national offices in Freetown and Bathurst.

It was suggested that one reason why Dr. Nkrumah was ready to allow this alone of the inter-territorial organisations to survive, was that the headquarters was in Accra. This is both inaccurate and unfair. For whatever Dr. Nkrumah's

France's African dilemmas
- **Chinese loan for Ghana**
- **Diary from Conakry**
- **Zaire and the Arabs**
- **Who are Nigeria's students?**

faults, he saw that the maintenance of examination standards was of the highest importance to Ghana with her rapidly expanding school population and he realised that outside assistance might be essential for this. No doubt, too, it is the difficulty of maintaining even the existing low standards in face of the rapid increase in school population which has induced the Liberian government to seek associate membership of WAEC. It is greatly to the credit of the political and military leaders of Anglophone West Africa that they did not think that total independence in examination standards was a necessary part of political independence, and that, now that WAEC is asserting its almost complete independence of its former overseas sponsors, they do not suppose that each of their countries can go its own way. Educational Devaluation as a result of attempts to "go-it-alone" could be more damaging than the loss of value by some currencies which have become nominally independent. For this is serious. As Mr. Chukwuemeka Ike, the Council's Registrar, has said: "The need for an impartial efficient, reliable examining body whose certificates will receive national and international recognition is not in doubt. The governments, the universities, the schools, the employers . . . need it."

The increase in the council's responsibility is shown by figures of candidates examined, given by Dr. Sahr Matturi, the Sierra Leonean chairman. In 1953 the total number of candidates the council dealt with in the School Certificate examination was 4,761. In the 1971 June examination the total was 20,394; while the total for the December examination of that year in Nigeria alone was 44,543, and in 1972, 55,162.

In national examinations, in 1971 for the Ghana Common Entrance Examination there were 75,890 candidates. The comparable examination in Nigeria – the National Common Entrance Examination – was taken by 138,450 candidates. In Sierra Leone the total was 14,693 and in The Gambia, 3,843.

In 1953 council senior staff numbered four, including the Registrar. In 1972 the total senior staff in all the council's national offices, including headquarters, was 86, all West Africans.

As the council is breaking away from overseas bodies, while at the same time decentralising its work in West Africa, can we expect the member countries still to want it to remain an inter-territorial body, or will they each, in time, want their own examination council? To judge by the messages sent to mark the 21st anniversary the four governments have no intention of breaking the council up. The Minister of Education in The Gambia, where the council's newest national office was established earlier this year, notes that the council is the only Anglophone West African body which has survived political emancipation and yet "remained united in strength and in determination to succeed". Ghana's Commissioner for Education is sure that relations between his co council will continue. Mr. hopes that the Council wil "shining example of regi tion" and expresses his ple Freetown branch of the Development and Resear intended to serve The Gamb as well.

Nigeria's Federal Com Education, Chief Eke, in a notes the council's progre what amounted to a "clear being a body responsible of its own examinations. "largest consumer" of the ducts and appreciates its wo Nigeria for the School Cert ination had increased almos Chief Eke said, while entries School Certificate rose simila in 1954 to about 3,417 in was no Common Entrance conducted by the Council the entries increased fivet 27,900 in 1965 to about 1972. These figures . . . show the indebtedness of my co council."

In another message Nicol, a former chairman, head- quarters in New York at one time Durham Univers Fourah Bay College were boat, weeks in advance, and by the Bishop of Sierra Le exact day and at the exact were being opened at Dur could be more different from set and locally examined pap African schools and colleges the council's mechanical ma trained staff and research them.

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West Africa is published by Overseas (Agencies) Ltd. at their Editorial and Publishing Office Cromwell House, Fulwood Place, London WC1V 6HZ Tel: 01 242 0661.

The many faces of co-operation: 1

From our correspondent

When, in 1960 and 1961, France was working out her relationships with the host of newly independent nations which had formerly come under her colonial umbrella, she hit on the word "co-operation" to describe the new ties. It had the right note of equality and mutual sovereignty, without the condescension of "aid". Thus the new treaties in a number of different spheres – financial, military, educational, cultural, legal, diplomatic – were collectively described as the Co-operation Agreements, and the ministry which operated them as the Co-operation Ministry; the agents who helped to implement them on the spot were known as *co-operants* (which translates, inadequately, as "co-operators").

The Ministry only concerned itself with the fourteen former French territories (Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Upper Volta, Ivory Coast, Niger, Togo, Dahomey, Cameroon, Chad, Gabon, Congo, Central African Republic and Madagascar). Since then it has seen its powers somewhat circumscribed by a reduction in status to that of a Secretariat within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. But it still keeps a separate budget, and it has seen its scope enlarged by including all the African territories which can count as forming part of *la francophonie*, notably the ex-Belgian territories of Zaire, Rwanda and Burundi, and the former British colony of Mauritius, which has a French-speaking Creole minority.

In the past the French have presented their co-operation policies as being a model of post-colonial relationships: others, indeed, have sometimes borrowed the word co-operation to cover their own "aid" policies, and in the comparative figures produced by the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) have always made a good statistical showing although the aid proportion of the French G.N.P. has declined in recent years.

Budget keeps its place

In spite of reports such as that of Jean-Marcel Jeanneney (1963), which recommended a diversification of co-operation to not only non-francophone Africa, but also out of Africa, the Co-operation Budget has always held its own in the overall budget totals. The secretariat's budget for 1973, for example, is 1,727m. French francs (about £180m.), which is a 14.8 per cent increase on the previous year. In 1972 the co-operation budget was 1,560m. francs, a percentage of 3.55; in 1971 it was 1,340m. fr. (3.67 per cent), while in the three previous years the percentages were 3.24 (1970), 2.88 (1969) and 2.96 (1968).

The share of the black francophone states of France's total aid has been maintained, and even increased, as it is now around 60 per cent, whereas in 1960 it was considerably less, owing to the heavy payments France was making at that stage to Algeria. Of the 14.8 per cent increase this year, the bulk is reportedly to go to the francophone states. One should not forget, too, that President Pompidou, on his visit to Upper Volta last November announced, the cancellation of 1,000m. francs (£83m.) worth of pre-independence debts owed by the francophone countries. And what has come to be called the "privileged position" of the francophones has been reinforced by membership of the Yaounde Convention. In the figures of aid per head (also produced by the OECD) most of the francophones are high on the list, partly because many of them are small countries.

President Hamani Diori of Niger, first to plant the idea of reforming co-operation agreements.

Nevertheless, the Co-operation Agreements have now, little by little, become an object of controversy, and in some circles "co-operation" is no longer the beautiful neutral thing it was intended to be when the agreements were signed. Questioning of the Co-operation Agreements was begun, although it is hard to remember now, by the unlikely figure of President Hamani of Niger, when President Pompidou came to visit him in Niamey. The Niger President put up certain proposals for revision of the 1960 agreements, which he considered in some respect out of date. The semi-paternalistic situation that applied in 1960 obviously needed changing more than ten years later, as the French have, in theory, been willing to acknowledge.

But after Niger came Congo-Brazzaville, Mauritania, Cameroon, Madagascar and Dahomey, some sweeping in with radical demands, some modestly indicating that they would be negotiating through the usual channels. President Senghor of Senegal, with his usual dexterity, said that he in fact had been modifying his agreements all the time since 1960, and it was therefore not necessary to go through a special revision. President Bongo of Gabon has said that he is satisfied with his agreements as they stand, which is surely also the position of President Houphouet-Boigny of Ivory Coast, who has not commented on the subject.

Change in the air

In general, however, change is in the air, and attempts have been made by the French to come to terms with it. The tour of President Pompidou in Upper Volta and Togo last November, during which, willy-nilly, the franc zone seemed for a time to become a political issue, showed how events could sometimes take over from people. The "Eyadema bombshell", in which the unfortunate Togo President carried suggestions for reform too far, incurred the wrath of President Pompidou. If there was too much monetary independence, M. Pompidou said, the French guarantee could always be withdrawn. The sacrosanct question of the parity, which President Eyadema had had the temerity to raise, was for the French alone decide. Since Lome, the impression has been strong that the French government has tried to give the whole co-operation question as low a profile as possible. Even the limited agreements with Mauritania in February have been presented as successful new examples of the "second wind" of co-operation. There was, however, no agreement on the vital currency question, so that Mauritania has now left the franc zone. The defence agreement, too, has been cancelled. As the editorial in *West Africa* last week commented, the French are concerned that Mauritania should not become a precedent, but one can hardly imagine that such events as the cancellation by the Nouakchott government of the automatic right of the French Ambassador to be the dean of the diplomatic corps is going to go unnoticed in other francophone countries. There are already reports that others are preparing to make the same demand. Indeed, it would be diplomatic of the French to abandon this precedence, which is only equalled by the automatic seniority of the Papal Nuncio in a number of fervently Catholic countries.

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WAEC comes of age

From our Correspondent

Twenty-one years ago this week, under the chairmanship of Sir Arthur Galsworthy, now British Ambassador in Dublin, the first meeting of the West African Examinations Council was held in Accra. The beginnings were modest: but today the council is of all-pervading importance in the four West African Commonwealth countries, as well as in the new "associate" Liberia.

At first the council was little more than a "clearing house" for the examinations set by Cambridge and London. But even before the end of 1953 the Council was conducting its first examination in its own right. This was the Gold Coast Sixth-Form Bursary Examination, first conducted by the Council in November, 1953, at the request of the Ministry of Education, for selection of entrants for sixth-form courses. In the next year came the Nigeria Qualifying Test, which was conducted for the first time in March 1954 at the request of the Nigerian Members of the Council. The Qualifying Test was used to eliminate candidates ill-prepared for the London G.C.E.

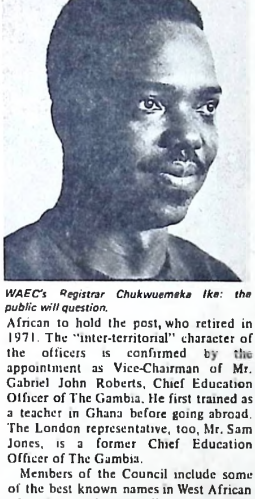
The first West African School Certification examination, in which the Council still collaborated with the Cambridge Syndicate, was conducted in 1955 and, partly because of the change in the school year in Ghana and Sierra Leone, the Council held its own School Certificate examination in June, 1960. Co-operation with Cambridge, however, has remained close although increasingly syllabuses were being modified and examiners were being trained locally. Reliance on London and Cambridge for examiners is now minimal.

The council has not hesitated to try out new ideas in examining. It started experimenting with "objective testing" on a pilot scale in 1956 and introduced objective type questions in Arithmetic, Geography and History in primary schools. The Objective Testing Unit (OTA) was established in 1959.

In 1966, when the Test Development and Research Office (TEDRO) was established, the Council introduced multiple-choice objective tests in its School Certificate/G.C.E. Ordinary Level examinations in Biology, Chemistry, English Language, Mathematics and Physics for the first time. By the use of both objective tests and the traditional essay-type questions the council sought to achieve a balance.

The Test Development and Research Office had been created by merging the Objective Testing Unit with the Nigeria Aptitude Testing Unit set-up in 1964. The Nigeria Unit was a Federal Government/US AID/AIR project. TEDRO was at first headed by a USAID/AIR technical expert. The first West African to become Director of TEDRO was appointed in January, 1972. The American Institute for Research and the Ford Foundation have assisted the council in these developments.

The present Chairman is Dr. Sahr Thomas Matturi, Principal of Sierra Leone's Njala University College, who follows Dr. T.A. Lambo, former Vice-Chancellor of Ibadan – where Dr. Matturi obtained his first Science degree. The Registrar is Vincent Chukwuemeka Ike, another Ibadan graduate, who was once Registrar of the University of Nsukka. He is well-known for his novels about life in Ibo land, the third of which, *The Potter's Wheel*, is expected later this year. Mr. Ike succeeds Mr. John Ayite Cronje, the Ghanaian, the first West



WAEC's Registrar Chukwuemeka Ike: the public will question.

African to hold the post, who retired in 1971. The "inter-territorial" character of the officers is confirmed by the appointment as Vice-Chairman of Mr. Gabriel John Roberts, Chief Education Officer of The Gambia. He first trained as a teacher in Ghana before going abroad. The London representative, too, Mr. Sam Jones, is a former Chief Education Officer of The Gambia.

Members of the Council include some of the best known names in West African education, such as Dr. E. Evans-Anfom, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Science and Technology, Kumasi; Mrs. L.C. Hyde-Forster, Principal of the Annie Walsh Memorial School, Freetown and Sir Samuel Manuwa, the distinguished Nigerian physician who represents the Federal Public Service Commission. Among the Liberian representative is Mrs. Grace Morris of the Department of Education. Cambridge and London Universities, both of which had so much to do with the establishment of the council in 1952 and which provided papers and examiners in the early years, are still represented on the Council.

From this year the council assumes full responsibility for the Higher School Certificate examination, hitherto a Cambridge Syndicate examination. This will make the council entirely independent of Cambridge, a process which began with the taking over of the School Certificate examination. Further steps of this kind are planned. The Chairman has announced that from December 1975/January 1976 the council will take over full responsibility for the General Certificate of Education examinations at ordinary and advanced levels, taken in Nigeria by a large number of private candidates (well over 50,000) who currently take the London G.C.E. Examination. "In commercial and technical examinations in which the council was a late starter, it is expected that no later than 1978 the council would have taken over the wide range of examinations currently being run in member countries by the Royal Society of Arts and the City and Guilds of London Institute respectively. Thus before the end of the decade the major examinations now being conducted in member countries by overseas examining boards would have been taken over."

The Registrar has expressed the hope that when all examinations come under one single authority in West Africa there will be an opportunity of "stream-lining" them and of bringing them even more closely towards the educational aspirations of the member countries. Though continuing to keep in touch with development elsewhere in the world, they would also hope to find some original solutions themselves. All chief examiners, external examiners, revisers, moderators and subject experts now have to be resident in West Africa, so that the examiners can be familiar with the candidates' backgrounds. From 1974 on the council's regulations will be printed in West Africa, and by 1977 or earlier all the rest of the council's printing, including question papers, will be done in West Africa, partly to save foreign exchange and partly to ensure speedier delivery.

The Registrar has also noted that the public who regarded the former Cambridge and London examination boards as "infallible", naturally question the West African Council. It was therefore essential to increase the number of permanent staff with high qualifications in the new sciences of "educational measurement". Another possibility is reduction in the proportion of "essay-type" papers and an increase in the "multiple-choice type" which is far cheaper and easier to administer. The cost of examinations is a serious problem for the council. For example, the Registrar points out that they cannot rely on the postal services in any member country for delivery of paper or scripts. The necessity of "residential marking" could make the cost of a single examination as much as £100,000. So continued support from member governments is essential. At the 21st Anniversary all have promised it.

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Matchet's Diary

The biggest puzzle in Africa is the description given to President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire by Mohammed Hassanein Heykal in the Egyptian semi-official daily *Al Ahram*. Mr. Heykal who is editor of *Al Ahram*, and an Egyptian political figure of some substance, had a remarkable conversation with the Zaire President when they were both in Peking. Much of it was obviously on the subject of the Middle East: Zaire's attitude towards the Arab-Israeli conflict is nowadays a subject of much speculation, as her hitherto pro-Israeli stance seemed about to be modified. Zaire's Foreign Minister was highly critical of the shooting down of the Libyan Boeing, and both he and President Mobutu have recently been on visits to Tunisia. President Mobutu was in Mauritania last week and is due in Algeria.

Heykal claims that President Mobutu said that Zaire would soon come out with a statement backing Egypt's line in the Middle East. This unambiguous statement says Heykal, will be made at the OAU summit meeting in Addis Ababa in May. General Mobutu, asked about the presence of Israeli military advisers in Zaire, agreed that there were still 12 Israelis with his army.

He is also quoted as asking: "Why does Gaddafi pay money to some African countries in return for severing relations with Israel?" Mr. Heykal says he replied that he did "not believe that Libya's President was paying money to anyone in return for severing relations with Israel." He told President Mobutu that many African leaders realised from "their own free experiences that Israel does not serve Africa but serves imperialism". He added "that Gaddafi should offer aid to some African countries is another matter . . . do you find it objectionable that an Arab country which can afford it should offer aid to an African country?"

Zaire refused to accept aid from any country, said President Mobutu, and was not aligned to either East or West. "We don't want alms from anyone we don't want grain and we don't want frozen chicken. We don't need aid, we are rich." President Tombalbaye of Chad had told him that Gaddafi would like to meet him, but he had not gone to Libya because he thought the Zaire people would interpret it as a bid for Libyan aid.

Concluding his article, Mr. Heykal described President Mobutu as "one of the ten richest men in the world", commenting cuttingly that in many African countries the leaders of the nationalist movements who led their countries to independence "change into a new exorbitantly rich class".

US policy defined

With his customary air of quiet authority, Mr. David Newsom, US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, reviewed US policy toward Africa for the Royal Commonwealth Society in London. His bland summary did not ignore controversial points. He did not, for example, discuss the general US attitude to commodity agreements, but explained his government's attitude to the cocoa agreement. Although the US was active in negotiations for the pact it had not signed because the administration believed there were serious flaws. The US did not think that the pact would stabilise the world cocoa price. Of far greater importance was the need for dealing with the underlying commodity problems of tropical producers. The US favoured a case-by-case approach rather than blanket agreements.

Official US attacks on the Yaounde Convention and the idea of association are now common. Mr. Newsom said that the US was concerned about the renewal of the convention. Although it recognised the importance of the convention to some countries, the US was opposed to special and reverse preferences, as were Canada and Japan. Mr. Newsom pointed out that African countries were increasingly opposed to such agreements and the US thought that non-discriminatory "open to all" agreements were the answer.

Of US relations with African states since independence, Mr. Newsom said that on independence many countries had expected the US to provide assistance, and over the last ten years US economic assistance was at an annual level of some $550m. Others had expected the US to take a lead in supporting independence movements. The Americans could not accept the present situation in southern Africa, nor could they endorse violence as a means to change. Consequently "we conscientiously pursue an arms embargo policy toward all sides in both South Africa and Portuguese territories. We exercise restraint in our commercial and government-financing activities in both."

There had been mutual misunderstanding in many cases and for the last few years the US had been trying to get relations with African states into proper perspective. The US asked only that African countries "be true to their professed non-alignment. We do not accept that there can be a double standard according to which the United States can be condemned for certain actions while other nations are not. Neither do we accept that African nations can turn blind eyes to human disaster within their own continent while seeking the condemnation of others."

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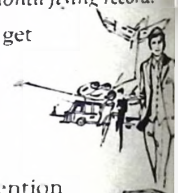

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Farmer Tsitsi's Operation Feed Yourself—year two: 3

How does the Ghana government's agricultural policy look to the people in the villages now? Yao Aduamah concludes his account of reactions in an Ewe village, and describes the coming of rain.

FEBRUARY is here. The long harvest holiday and the period of theory on farms all over West Africa are over: all is practical now.

At Gazokrom too the rain fell at last, late, but quite heavily. Three men with chests bare were winding their way down the village lane. Each had a hoe hooked across his shoulder. They halted at Farmer Tsitsi's gate and knocked. The children came hurrying up with the news: "The Kabre men are here; they've come to be hired, father. The yam mound makers and the grass mowers are here."

The three men entered and greeted the household. "Good morning, Farmer Tsitsi. The rains are here, and here we are again, sir, entering upon another season with the air so clear and the ground cool to our feet."

"Ah, good morning, dear," said Tsitsi, tapping his Hope who quickly stopped barking. "Here we are, dear, rainy with the rain to play our small part in the second year of Operation Feed Yourself, as they call it."

The Kabre were hardworking and the farmers would never have their own village mowers or mound makers when they could get the Kabre. But now Tsitsi had adopted the policy of self-reliance and do-it-yourself and would therefore not hire the Kabre who left to try their luck elsewhere but Hevi aged nineteen was annoyed with his father for not hiring them.

"Self-reliance depends on your hard work," said Tsitsi, pointing an accusing finger.

"Rely on your own sweat for success, you may say," added Mrs Tsitsi, bursting out from the kitchen where she had fetched all the hoes and gourds from the corner where they had been stacked for the Harmattan. "What a heavy rain we've had in the night!" said she.

"It is a rain we must take advantage of," said the husband, "and we thank God this dust scattering in our face had ended." Tsitsi still sharpening his cutlass with his hands performing a see-saw forwards and backwards looked round and saw his own boots clogged with mud and his footprints on the soft ground. It cheered him to see the marks and he stopped a moment to look at them. "But," said he in his characteristic manner, "the rain was too dashing to go deep enough."

The first sensation of the February rain had been conveyed to the intelligence of the villagers by the behaviour of certain animals, plants, fishes and signs in the sky. Farmer Tsitsi had observed that while returning from a hunt the day before the rain he had seen earth worms moving about and dying on the dry path before him, while his wife said she had seen a frog hopping about in her kitchen. I rain these appearances they argued that the harmattan was going to end and rain ensue.

There is no falling off in the demand for reliable weather studies. Not will there be while there are the farmers and blacksmiths of Gazokrom, let alone at this time of Operation Feed Yourself in which they are so optimistic. And there may not be a barometer in a whole district. "From the darkness of the clouds on Elephant Hill I knew it would rain. Then almost at once I heard

'Drowned, I am! I am!

Drowned, I am! I am!"

and the bird with the red beak flew past me."

There are no leaves on the trees now but the stir of germination can almost be heard, every pore is open and every stalk is swollen with running currents of sap. On the morning after the rain vapour was rising from the ground while heavy scents of the earth itself filled the air. There were birds singing and praising the newness of life while termites which had come out of their holes during the first showers died in their excitement, leaving their wings and bodies scattered about the lanes and compounds. In the two village stores, still empty of such essential commodities as sugar, one could readily see hoes and matchets in demand all the year round though vast swarms of butterflies flying southwards were said to be now going to make their hoes.

The newness of life moved the farmers as it moved the animals and plants and made them rush to work. Early morning became an hour of preparation — the sharpening of matchets.

"Well, sir," said Mrs Tsitsi, "and so you're moving to catch a new land this year?"

"I beg your pardon?" returned the farmer, rising from his whet-stone.

"You're going for a new land, I hear from the children," said the old housewife.

"Of course the place for farming has to be fixed beforehand, and I remember informing the children. Oh yes, mama, yes. Elephant Valley this year."

The villagers of Gazokrom were full of strength and activity. But for a long time they had not been in a position to build their doings on any original choice of guidance and had allowed them to be exercised on whatever thing befell them. They had quick understanding too, but being devoid of the ability to unite this with their strength, the understanding became employed with minor things while waiting for the Ministry of Agriculture, the Forestry Department, and the Government to guide it, and the strength exhausted in futile deserts, among thorns, on rocks and by waysides. So it happened that the land had got worn out. "I shall need a new piece of land next season for the yams," said the farmer. "Forty years ago you had only to go to the outskirts of the village for fertile ground, the black soil or the brown clay-loam. By little and little the land fell away, and now if you get it, it is so far away on the way is so steep as to make the heart of the children and the market mammies break."

"A far place as Elephant Valley to farm on, certainly. A far, far place," muttered Hevi. "That hill-surrounded place."

"Take the water gourd and let us go on," said Mrs. Tsitsi.

But as they started Hevi almost fainted.

"My child," Tsitsi called, brandishing a long cane, "if you don't move you will see it just now. You were here the other day when the DC came and you heard his message that we are no longer going to beg. Self-reliance has come." He proceeded in lowered tones to remind the child of the skeletal neighbour Gogbovi Mawutor, who used to go about begging and never caring to earn a living. "Do you think if your mother and I had behaved like him we could have sent you to school and bought a loin-cloth for you? Never. You are old enough to be independent."

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"Even Goglovi Movitor is [illegible] now," said Mrs. Tsitsi. "He [illegible] fine weather as the rain makes [illegible]

Indeed there was a reaction [illegible] Movitor now. Shouts had been [illegible] compound and his dog was [illegible] greatest animation. The [illegible] self-reliance and Operation [illegible] seemed to remind him that [illegible] self-distrust and laziness which [illegible] look down on manual work [illegible] from foreign houses seemed [illegible] regrettable event, and that an [illegible] serious work had arrived.

At last Hevi straightened his [illegible] Tsitsi, after leaving instructions [illegible] children Henry and Adjo to [illegible] properly locked, they left the house.

They were all in work clothes. [illegible] dark cotton underskirt and a shirt, [illegible] pair of rubber boots and a pair [illegible] tarpaulin trousers which had seen [illegible] service of his eldest son in the Congo, [illegible] a loose knee-length dark-brown gown [illegible] other houses more and more [illegible] emerged. Some stopped and greeted [illegible] blacksmith's son who was offering [illegible] and other implements for sale. [illegible] man shuffled past. He was bent [illegible] but the stir of the field had taken [illegible] him with great strength and he [illegible] sharp cutlass and a new hoe. [illegible] passed and raised his hand to Tsitsi, [illegible] chief landholder. The school [illegible] struck seven, and while the greeting [illegible] the farmers, the two Tutsi children [illegible] some distance away on their own. Mrs. Tsitsi called out:

"Hey, Henry, have you been [illegible] carefully locked up? Good. [illegible] from school in the afternoon [illegible] little sister Adjo and don't let [illegible] piece of fish and yam are on [illegible] you. Cook it and see to it that [illegible] for his sake.

Came the rain

That demonstration was [illegible] was so unexpected by a senior [illegible] four and who moreover was [illegible] his schoolmates that he shrank [illegible] quite instinctively and he [illegible] manner in which he turned [illegible] mother." It was strange, but [illegible] to turn from the elegance of the [illegible] careworn and grizzled features [illegible] All was for his sake and future. [illegible] wife had borne great poverty [illegible] would prevent him from experiencing [illegible] hardship. And moved by the warm [illegible] of the new season they walked on [illegible]

And soon with the arrival of the [illegible] the village of Gazokrom, where [illegible] preceding weeks harvest festivities [illegible] lated and men exchanged visits [illegible] was quiet as the graveyard, while [illegible] the bush was broken by the sudden [illegible] plants, animals and men. [illegible] from harmattan fires crept [illegible] vegetable world which had been [illegible] and made helpless by the fierce [illegible] life was now bursting, stretching [illegible] You could talk about the [illegible] or March, about the launching [illegible] programme by parliament [illegible] you might distribute seeds [illegible] farmers; GNTC might get [illegible] sale. But as matters stood now [illegible] was *the rain*. And the farmers [illegible] that the weather would be [illegible] this Operation Feed Yourself [illegible] would, for the market [illegible] blessed with sunshine, but [illegible] farmers sake, with a sufficient [illegible]

Some reflections on Sekou Toure's Guinea: 2

For a short period in August 1968, and a longer period in 1970-71, 'Ladipo Adamolekun of the Institute of Administration of Ife University was in Guinea as part of his research into administration. During the second of these visits he recorded general reflections which *West Africa* is now publishing. He will be using the material he collected for a book called *Sekou Toure's Guinea*.

I saw some girls this evening carrying guns on guard at the CER 2 août (a secondary school). At the Polytechnic, too, the female students join with the male in keeping guard. Each female student – and in fact, every student – is on guard at least once a fortnight. How do students and pupils like this?

Quite a number show no enthusiasm and sometimes fail to turn up. Others are indifferent but accept their duty. Then there are real militants who enjoy it.

The behaviour of Guinean youth reveals some influence of the Touré mobilization system. You meet quite a number who are fully impregnated with the ideology of the regime. However, it is not difficult for anybody fully aware of the regime's ideology and its practice, especially the difference between theory and practice and some of the inconsistencies of the ideology, to pose embarrassing questions to the young militants. A few refuse to admit criticisms while the more intelligent ones refer you to consult "higher authorities" for further discussion.

The tastes of Guinean youth – dressing, music, food, make-up – are not easy to determine in a definitive manner. For example, they love their national bands and orchestras but they also like listening to modern pop and soul music although the Government has banned these on the national radio. Since my arrival, I have always heard modern pop and soul on the Polytechnic campus from students' rooms. Not once have I heard the national records. Generally, the vast majority of pupils and students wear what is locally available. But there is a conspicuous minority who wear imported dresses – daughters and sons of leaders of the regime and the national bourgeoisie, especially the daughters of Malinké traders, notorious for contraband trade.

Some young workers like to dress *à la française* in suits with tie and pocket handkerchiefs to match. They frequently come to the *Hôtel Camayenne* to eat dinner – some of them accompanied by girl-friends. The meals at the Polytechnic show no extravagance as in Dakar, Abidjan, and especially Nigeria. In fact, one can say that the students need better food. Maybe that will come with time.

Finally, as to make-up, I have not seen a single example of painted lips since I arrived about seven weeks ago. Considering my movements – hotels, Polytechnic, buses etc. – I can reasonably conclude that Guinean women do not use lipstick. The commonest make up is finger-painting followed by some form of wig-wearing. Both appear limited to the same category of female students – daughters of leaders and national bourgeoisie – and other women who have made good men friends.

1/1/71

Economic Mobilization in Guinea

This aspect of the Touré mobilization system has not achieved much – not to describe it as a total failure.

Yesterday, the Sierra Leonean Government announced that the agricultural exports of the country during the first 11 months of 1970 increased by about 20 per cent over 1969 export figures. The increase was especially noticeable in regard to coffee and palm produce. In reality, for some years now, Sierra Leone has been exporting more agricultural products than she produces and it is an open secret that the explanation for this is the smuggling of Guinean products to Sierra Leone. The Sierra Leonean announcement of yesterday shows that the smuggling has continued unabated.

The persistence of fraudulent trade is not the only illustration of the ineffectiveness of the Touré mobilization system in the economic field. Other illustrations abound – the failure of Touré to sell the "mystique of work" to his countrymen (a presidential decree of July 1964 and the Presidential circular of 22 December 1970 dealt with this subject); the continued problems connected with food products, leading to the 1970 September *malaise paysanne* (peasant unrest) and Touré's distribution of American rice to the farmers; and the failure of agricultural modernisation through cooperatives and through the *Centres d'enseignement agricole* (after the failure of the CMRs – *Centres de modernisation rurale)*. Today, Guinean peasants continue to farm as their grandfathers did last century.

With the failure of agricultural modernisation during the First Plan, the Government decided to attach first priority to industrialisation in the next Plan. This year (1971) will see the end of the 7-Year Plan and in its sector of first priority, industrialisation, the Touré mobilization system has very little to show. Factories are producing at between 20 and 40 per cent because of lack of industrial raw materials. Of course, another side to the failure of industrial

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"take off" is the inability of Touré to work successfully with Western investors. Unfortunately, the Socialist bloc countries have not done much in ensuring the development of Guinea's tremendous mineral resources.

Considering the Guinean economic experience, I have come to the conclusion that the following hypothesis is worth examining: *In the absence of a root and branch revolution, a colonial economy cannot become a modern economy without passing through a neo-colonial economy phase.*

However, the inevitable evil effects of the neo-colonial phase will be intensified or minimised depending on whether the country concerned has (a) a nationalist and enlightened leadership, (b) rich and diversified natural resources, (c) a substantial number of national cadres with reasonable intellectual and technical training in a variety of fields.

It is false to claim that the Guinean economy today is not neo-colonial. It is neo-colonial but to a very limited extent. Fria and Boke *(supra)* are examples of neo-colonial influences. If the country now wants a rapid economic and social development for the mid-seventies (a reasonable deadline to the continuation of the present non-development without internal blow up), it may have to accept some form of neo-colonial economy. Under Touré, Guinea has the first two assets for minimising the evil effects of a neo-colonial economy and every year of this decade will see its strength in the third increased as the Touré educational

My personal guess is that by the mid-1970s Guinea will be running one kind of neo-colonial economy or the other – I sincerely hope it will be one benefitting from the attenuating circumstances enumerated above.

3/1/71

The Originality of the Guinean Experience

The aspects of the average Guinean's life which, dominated by the Party is most remarkable. At the Base Committee level, food, correspondence, birth, death, marriage registrations, are all controlled by the Party structure. There are plans now to widen further the activities of the Base Committees in their new role as Local Revolutionary Authorities *(Pouvoir révolutionnaires locaux, PRL)*.

The most remarkable innovation in Guinea in the late sixties was the confiscation of religion by the Party. Thus, the National Political Bureau of the Party presides over national muslim feasts side by side with Imams and on ordinary praying days, the Federal Bureau, the Section Executive and PRL Executive share prominence with Imams. Some Party headquarters also serve as Mosques.

Another originality of the Guinean experience at the level of the Party is the existence of 30 Permanent Party officials who constitute the Party Bureaucracy. Usually, they are expected to have emerged from the Base Committee, first as militants, then as Executive members, then as Executive members of the Section

before becoming members o
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Another originality of
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The big question about
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The Guinean Experience
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Books and Publications

Africa's real unity?

Africanity – The Cultural Unity of Black Africa *by Jacques Maquet (Oxford University Press, hardback, £3.60, paperback, £1.10).*

Following up his previous book, *Civilizations of Black Africa*, in which he grouped the peoples of Black Africa into six different types of civilizations, Professor Maquet now attempts to show that there is clearly a common quality among these civilizations. This quality he calls Africanity. It gives to Black Africa a "cultural unity" in spite of the vast differences found in the area, illustrated, for example, by the six major civilizations which Professor Maquet himself has identified among the people. These are: "the civilization of the bow, that of the hunters of the equatorial forest and the savannas of southern Africa; the civilization of the clearings, that of the forest farmers; the civilization of the granaries, that of the agriculturalists who have built the great chiefdoms and kingdoms of the savanna belt extending across Africa to the south of the equatorial forest belt; the civilization of the spear, that of the warrior herdsmen of the east area of the high plateaux of East Africa; the civilizations of the cities, that of the craftsmen, the traders and the rulers of the steppes and dry savanna on the edge of the Sahara; and finally the civilization of steel or industry, that of the workers, clerks and entrepreneurs living throughout Africa, wherever factories and new towns are found."

This "cultural unity" is not racial: "Africans did not create Africanity because they are black". But the peoples of Black Africa, Professor Maquet maintains, have a "similar experience of the world" and share several cultural traits, which are constantly being diffused. There are possibly over 800 different "cultures" in Africa but Professor Maquet maintains that even so among these he can distinguish a significant degree of unity. First is the importance of kinship. It is in Black Africa above all that common descent from an ancestor makes a firm bond. A man is not so much an unique individual as a link in the chain of generations for Black Africa. The group also takes precedence over the individual; nobody is isolated and everybody participates in the total life of the world. There is, too, the almost universal institute of polygamy, a talent for settling disputes by compromise, the easy and natural establishment of traditional authority without personality cults.

On the other hand Africanity, in contrast to the prevalent culture in some other parts of the world, has shown itself ready to adopt innovations, particularly from Europe. It recognises that techniques belong to mankind – after all much of what today is regarded as European technique originated in Asia. Even so Africanity can "maintain itself" so long as Africans want it to do so.

Professor Maquet concludes his book optimistically. "It is significant that the contributions of traditional Africanity to world culture are mainly in the realm of arts and letters. As is exemplified by the relationship between Rome and Greece, this is the only domain in which conquerors and masters allow themselves to be influenced by their subjects. For this reason we may expect an increase in African influence by their spheres other than the arts, following the consolidation of political independence. As Africa becomes stronger politically and economically, its contribution to world culture will increase.

"We have already suggested the remarkable harmony and balance that traditional Africa achieved in the organisation of human relationships. By various means, Africans have succeeded in reducing tensions and resolving conflicts between individuals and groups more effectively, it seems, than the peoples of the West. The field of human relations is one of the domains in which we believe, and hope, Africanity will make valuable contributions to the common heritage of humanity. But it certainly will not be the only one."

There are a number of illustrations, the object of which is not always clear. And Professor Maquet's thesis necessarily leads him to genetalisations which are often misleading – for example it is not true that everywhere in colonial Africa forced labour was used. His idealisation of the villages and of the African talent for compromise does not stand up, for example, to the experience of the uprisings in the north of Sierra Leone in 1956 or the cocoa farmers' revolt in Nigeria in 1968. His thesis necessarily leads him to reject the European two-party system and therefore to accept with reluctance the idea that one-party states are "African", although he admits that the states tend to become one-man autocracies. But his thesis is both attractive and well-argued, even if

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champions of African unity inclined to deny his separation Africa from the rest of the

At the end of the book catalogue of a hundred societies drawn up by Schalchli. These societies nations like the Yoruba to like the Ambo of Zambia, some 10,000. Professor that they may cover perhaps of the total number of exist in black Africa and does that they are representative meant to illustrate both the the unity in the culture in of the Sahara.

Unhappily the details are in many ways example, the number of as three million when itself they must number million. The Fulani are "city" people, although true Fulani are the nomadic those who dwell in cities assimilated to other peoples that Professor Maquet information is meant to 1885, but there must then more nomadic Fulani than really true that the subjugated lower caste" of Benin, Ife and Dahomey account of the Hausa made to the Fulani conquest, the attempted invasion by the 16th century. Is it really Ijaw, who live for the Niger Delta, are people or We are told that Swahili important lingua-franca of although there is little claim can be made for Hausa.

Lessons from Br

Brazil Struggles for Democ
Gordon Campbell, (Cheshi
£3.00).

"Within our national have not only a Belgium Kenya, a Nigeria and a P diversity that is part of greatness but is also its Professor Vamireh Chac Campbell. To offset such has a national language, national church, and an regards itself as a national even if in its numerous politics it has not always But Brazil, in area the fourth the world and the eighth (the population is now around 100m.), has vast communications, "of unequ ment", and, in spite of the Brazilian propaganda, of racial

Readers of Anani Dzidzie about Afro-Brazilians in a of this journal need not be black Brazilians for the be found at the lower end scale. Mr. Campbell, a form *Times* correspondent in Brazil

book with a discussion of the racial problem, making the same points as Anani Dzidzienyo; but his chief concern is with the problems of development and integration. He is no advocate of military rule but he declares bluntly that many of the conditions for democracy are lacking in Brazil and emphasises the economic achievements of the military régime which took over in 1964. That régime, however, has been far more arbitrary and dictatorial than has any military régimes in West Africa. Its dictatorship is exercised against a background not only of racial but also of social inequality, which includes a peculiarly vicious form of landlordism. The régime's best efforts are to be found in the under-developed north-east, but even there the plight of the Indians has aroused international protest.

Those familiar with West African problems will be interested to read of Brazil's inflation, constant devaluations, debt rescheduling, and agricultural backwardness. Those who want a new capital for Nigeria may also be interested in the story of Brasilia, the country's new capital deep in the heart of the country.

It is unfair to expect Mr. Campbell in such a short book to cover all aspects of the subject, but one would have liked him to say more about Brazil's external relations. For some Brazilians like to put their country forward, dictatorship and all, as a leader of the "Third World", while at the same time Brazil has special and close relations with her founder mother, Portugal. Others, notably Professor Jose Honorio Rodrigues (whose key work, *Brazil and Africa*, published in 1961, is not included in the bibliography) maintain that Brazil's ties with Africa are and ought to be closer than those with Europe or the rest of America. And while there is much discussion of sugar, cotton and coffee (and obviously of rubber), cocoa is scarcely mentioned.

This is, however, a very valuable and readable introduction. D.P.

Trans-Africa progress

The next meeting of the Trans-African Highway Coordinating Committee will be held at Mombasa, Kenya, from April 10 to 14. A Progress Report on the highway project published by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) shows that feasibility studies have been completed on 2,896 km or 45 per cent of the 6,375 km highway.

Offers of assistance of the order of $8.61m. have been obtained for studies on 2,680 km (42 per cent).

The donors are Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the African Development Bank. About $1.95m. needed for studies of 800 km or 13 per cent of the highway has not been found. The UK and France have expressed readiness to finance study of international travel and trade and road traffic and vehicle regulations.

Reservation made by the Central African Republic, Uganda, Zaire over routing the highway through their countries at the last meeting of the Committee of Bangui have been sorted out. The highway will link Lagos to Mombasa, and will run through Uganda, Zaire, Central African Repbulic and Cameroon.

A meeting on feeder roads to link Somalia, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Zambia, Sudan, Rwanda, Burundi, Chad, Congo, Gabon and Niger to the highway has been held in Addis Ababa.

A five-year programme, held up because of lack of all necessary information, is to be prepared by the TAH Bureau. F.A.

Reluctant Neighbours, *by E. R. Braithwaite (Bodley Head, £1.80).*

Mr. Braithwaite, former Representative of Guyana at the UN, and successful author of *To Sir With Love* is dealing here semi autobiographically with the sensitive subject of race relations. The book is in the form of a description of a conversation he had on a train in New England with an offensively patronising white liberal commuter, but is interspersed with flashbacks of his own life.

The author ranges from memories of the winter of '42 in the RAF (integrated Christmas with Elsie and Dan in a house in Brentwood with a privet hedge), and the bit about coping with prejudice in an East End school, through Paris to Ghana and then to Guyana and the US, stopping all down the line to reflect and philosophise. It is almost as if this conversation on the train, and the hang-ups about race it exposes, make the author sit back and examine his own life in middle age. The irony is Braithwaite is patently a fairly conventional liberal himself. K.W.

African Sparks *(African Spark Ltd., Lagos; 30k[15p]).*

With a loud sub-title of "Africa's continental monthly of political, socio-economic, cultural and religious affairs", the new magazine is no doubt an ambitious one, or at least, it has set ambitious goals for itself.

African Spark has joined the not too rosy magazine market in Nigeria. It will be competing with the well-established monthlies like *Africa* and *Afriscope*. In format it looks like them – though not yet as brilliant, but it undersells them.

This first issue with rather too long an editorial titled the "Unmaking of the OAU" tries hard to justify the sub-title. On the cover is a colour picture of Emperor Haile Selassie, "the sage of Africa", apparently as a symbol of the OAU.

The brain behind it all is the volatile and controversial Lagos University law lecturer, Dr. Obarogie Ohonbamu who is described as sole director.

If the contents of this first issue are anything to go by, the magazine will no doubt make some contribution to in-depth treatment of national and international events and may well offer older magazines a challenge. F.A.

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Letters to the Editor

Ashanti treasures

SIR, I do thank Matchet for his column February 12 in which he comments on the twin appeals to the British government for the return to West Africa of Benin and Ashanti treasures. I agree that there is an excellent case for the fair interchange of works of art as between museums in different continents.

My appeal for the return of some, at least, of the Ashanti treasures is now however based solely on sentiment. West Africa is fast entering the expanding pattern of world tourism and Ghana's particular speciality is, and will continue to be, its rich traditional festivals, the Mecca of which is unquestionably Kumasi.

Tourist centres tend to become identified with a particular symbol which soon becomes the major draw — Shakespeare's birth-place at Stratford-upon-Avon, the Pyramids outside Cairo etc.

The considerable publicity which would be attendent upon a centenary restoration of selected Ashanti treasures would undoubtedly draw attention to the unusual Museum at Kumasi, which already houses a unique collection of Ashanti royal paraphernalia, but which could readily become a major African tourist attraction in its own rights. A generous gesture which could also play a considerable part in helping to promote the lucrative tourist industry that every country's economy today needs would indeed be a handsome centenary gift.

R. J. MOXON

Accra

"Know your teacher"

SIR—Every Nigerian should commend the efforts of the Governor of Mid-West State in his "Operation Know Your Teacher". It would be a good idea if an operation on the same lines could be launched in the Western State.

Decline in the standard of teaching in the Western State can be attributed to:

1. The Old Western Region's Free Education.

The introduction of Free Education meant a big increase in the number of teachers. The lack of foresight of the old politicians could not let them plan ahead for this programme. So mushroom Teacher Training Colleges were created to meet the demand and invariably the standard of entry was lowered. It could be argued that many old students of the colleges have attained high standards in education, but these are not teaching profession. The standard of teaching was further butchered when products of the Free Education entered Teacher Training Colleges to train as teachers. Imagine a boy, six years in Primary School and two in Secondary Modern and three years in a Teacher Training College; promise we have a Grade II Teacher. In the old days, however, after many years as a C teacher, you had to fight your way battling with stiff competitive examinations to gain admission to St. Andrew's College, Wesley College, St. John's Owo, St. Jude's Ibadan, St. Paul's Abeokuta and C.M.S. Ibadan, where you would toil for four years for the Grade II Certificate. Or with your School Certificate you would have to do two years for the Pivotal Certificate. What we have these days are trained but unqualified teachers.

2. The staffing of Mission Teacher Training Colleges.

I blame the Mission Colle... women's colleges for staffin... expatriates who while in the U... School Teachers. How could these... who are supposed to go out... children? As a teacher I attended... with these tutors as they were o... my horror when I met some of th... where they were — are not qualif... kindergarten class.

What we need is a definite pla... teachers to educate future lea... Training should be made the resp... the Federal Government to ha... system. More academic subjects... introduced though emphasis sh... placed on methods and psycholog...

AISA

London

African sports?

SIR, Mr. H.L.B. Moody (March ... have been carried away by your ... leader advocating authentic Afric... future All-African Games. What ... sport? Any attempt to classify ... original derivations is blatantly ...

Are we told that running ... over hurdles are European sports ... superstars (like John Akii-Bua) ... precisely this in the African blo... they heard of organised ... Throwing the javelin? This was ... way our forebears hunted and ... term 'African sport' a complete ... Sport is universal and any attempt ... on its origins only detracts from ... to achieve ... must stand on ...

LAS

Lagos.

SIR, I whole-heartedly support ... letter (March 5) that canoe ... type be included as an event in ... games.

Such an event need not take ... Oxbridge race: indeed it could ... same basis as acrobatics, or perhaps ... There is a good variety of canoes ...

From the war boats of the N... fisherman's two-seater, and there ... be fun to watch.

However, one immediate problem ... not insurmountable) is that the ... that all African Games will be held ... river or with a nearby Lake Sec... portation of such canoes could be ... expensive. The solution here is ... nation provides the canoes to go ... dard.

Newcastle SO...

Computers at II

SIR, The statement in your ... Enginemic, The 1963 Nigeria Census ... that Nigeria, being a poor country ... have the facilities for quick data ... (i.e. fast moving computers) is ... from correct.

The first computer in the ... installed earlier than this and there ... steady increase in the number ...

The 1963 Census data were ... IBM computer at the University of ... students of the IBM African Educ... there did the processing and it ... was one of them.

I.A. ...

University of Ibadan

Our reviewer writes: My ... fact a quotation from Dr. Ekanem's ... grateful to Mr. Olayinka for the ... this point, which reinforces the ... doubts about the length of time ... Census Board to add up the ...

Commercial News

Nigeria rail expansion

A major expansion programme by the Nigerian Railway Corporation has been announced by the General Manager, Mr. T.I.O. Nzegwu. The track will be extended from the West through the Mid-West to the East, up to the port of Calabar — a distance of 600 miles. The railway will also be extended from Gusau to Sokoto in the North-Western State, a distance of 130 miles. Feasibility studies on these projects have already been submitted to the Federal Government.

Presenting a paper on railway transport development to a symposium on the role of science and technology in national development, Mr. Nzegwu said the corporation was planning to establish a research, development and planning unit. The corporation will also establish a central training college. Increased attention was being paid to marketing so that the corporation could obtain a more profitable share of the market.

• Some £9m. was disbursed to British industry in February from over 40 loans by the Overseas Development Administration to developing countries for the supply of British goods and services. Nigerian orders included maintenance and workshop tools and spares for 22 diesel electric shunting locomotives to the amount of £225,000 and breakdown cranes and matchwagons for £448,000.

Ghana's buses

Ghana's Ministry of Local Government is to buy 350 buses to be operated by the National Omnibus Services Authority (NOSA). The Ministry has already placed an order for 100, of which 30 are expected to arrive within the next five months. General Afeti, Local Government Commissioner, said that later consignments of 30 each would arrive every two months. His Ministry had taken responsibility for importing the buses, but the NOSA would operate them and pay for them.

Asked what was being done to rehabilitate broken-down buses, the Commissioner said that in the case of TAM buses, technical staff of the Yugoslav manufacturers had arrived to work on them.

• Rules for the International Cocoa Agreement, expected to come into force on October 1, will be worked out at a resumed meeting of the Interim Committee on Cocoa in London in June. Negotiations in Geneva resulted in tentative agreement that contributions to the buffer stock funding arrangements would be included in the price of the contract for all shipments of bean and cocoa products due on or after the date the agreement comes into force. But cocoa of crops years prior to 1973-74 and still in shipment or in bond would not be subject to contribution.

A working group will continue preparation of the detailed economic rules for operation of the agreement before the London meeting. The rules of procedure for the Cocoa Council will also be considered. Representatives of 41 countries and the EEC were at Geneva. All have signed the agreement.

• Standard Bank (Ghana) is to assist individual Ghanaian farmers to undertake large-scale farming. Mr. R.N. Thompson, of the London office, told Col. F.G. Bernasko, Commissioner for Agriculture, Criteria for selecting farmers for loans would be honesty, ability to cultivate not less than 200 acres, and reasonable tenure.

• Nigerian industrialists have been accused by the Federal Commissioner for Industry, Dr. J.E. Adetoro, of selling their expatriate quotas to other companies. He said it was possible to bring into the country people of shady character in the guise of industrial experts. Dr. Adetoro emphasized that any individual or group with adequate managerial and financial capacity would have no problem in establishing an industry in Nigeria. It was, however, essential for the Government to scrutinize all allocations to avoid the misuse of expatriate quotas and repatriation of profits.

• Private contractors in Ghana will now have to be guaranteed by the Contractors' Association before they are awarded government contracts. Contractors will also be expected to sign performance bonds guaranteed by the association. Announcing this at a general meeting of the Ghana National Contractors Association Colonel Victor Coker-Appiah, Commissioner for Works and Housing, said the measure had become necessary to ensure that contractors executed contracts properly. The Commissioner deplored the absence of expatriate contractors from the meeting. He said the government was considering re-introduction of the "fluctuation clause" in contracts, but this would cover only major building materials, such as cement, iron rods and sanitary ware.

Kumasi's Chinese factory

A 2m. cedi factory in Kumasi, abandoned after the 1966 coup, is to be reactivated as a joint venture of the Government, the National Investment Bank, Ghana Stationery Company, and a German firm, Rehback Buffalo GMBH. The factory, established in 1964 under communist China's technical aid programme, will produce pencils, sharpeners, erasers, colour boxes, carbon papers, ink, chalk, glue, pen holders, rulers, stamp pads, typewriter ribbons, ball point pens, felt pens, and wooden toys.

World cocoa prospects

World cocoa bean production for 1972-73 is forecast at 1.5m. metric tons, by the U.S. Agriculture Department, down four per cent from the record 1971-72 harvest. African production is expected to be lower by seven per cent than the big 1971-72 harvest of 1,159,200 tons, reflecting smaller crops in Ghana, Ivory Coast, Cameroon, and Togo. Nigerian production has been revised downward because of continued dry weather and the harvest (including estimates for cocoa marketed through Dahomey) is now expected to be some 270,000 tons.

A 10 per cent rise in South American production is forecast this season, reflecting prospects of a good Brazilian harvest. Brazil's crop is forecast at 195,000 tons, compared with 165,400 tons in 1971-72.

Because of the smaller world crop and higher prices, world grindings in 1973 are likely to be under the record 1972 level, says the US forecast. However, the 1973 grind will probably still be greater than production, resulting in a modest stock drawdown, following a balance of supply and demand in 1972.

US grindings in 1973 are expected to be below the previous year's level of 289,000 metric tons, reflecting reduced bar size.

Cocoa prices moved sharply higher immediately following the recent US devaluation, notes the department's report.

Following the Fair

Among orders placed as a result of the British Industrial Exhibition in Lagos last month was one for £25,000 for plastic bag making machinery. Another result of the fair was a decision by the Tetbury based company, Johnny Walker (Holdings), which makes plastic and rubber machinery, to establish a subsidiary in partnership with Nigerian companies.

Shipping News

ELDER DEMPSTER LINES
SOUTHBOUND – From Liverpool:- DEIMO sld Lome Mar. 23.
From London:- FALABA due Apapa Apr. 2; PEGU slg. Mar. 28; MANO sld. Lobito Mar. 23; SYLVIA CORD sld. Apapa Mar. 24.
From Middlesbrough:- KADUNA sld. Mar. 23.
From Glasgow:- DUMBAIA sld. Freetown Mar. 22; EGORI slg. Apapa Mar. 27; FIAN sld. Luanda Mar. 23.
From Manchester:- DUNKWA due Port Harcourt Mar. 23.
From Poole:- CLEARWAY due Lagos Mar. 29.
From Southampton:- AUREOL due Freetown Mar. 23.
NORTHBOUND – To Liverpool:- FOURAH BAY due Apr. 1.
To London:- FULANI sld. Apapa Mar. 25; DALLA due Mar. 30; EBOE due Freetown Mar. 23.
To Glasgow:- KOHIMA due Mar. 24.
To N. Continent:- KUMBA due Tema Mar. 23; MACHAON due Monrovia Mar. 23.
EASTBOUND – From USA/Canada:- DUMURRA slg. Port Harcourt.
WESTBOUND – To USA/Canada:- DARU due Baltimore Mar. 23; DONGA due Dakar Mar. 26.

BARBER LINES
OUTWARDS – FERNLAND due Monrovia Apr. 2 thence Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/Apapa, Warri & Douala; BARBERBROOK slg. Baltimore Mar. 28, New York Apr. 3 for Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/Apapa, Warri & Douala.
HOMEWARDS – BARBERGATE due load Monrovia Mar. 27, Freetown Apr. 1 for Philadelphia & New York; BARBERBROOK due load (Sb) Apr. 19, Sapele Apr. 21, Douala Apr. 23, Ghana Apr. 26, Abidjan/Monrovia end Apr./early May Freetown May 3.
WESTBOUND – From Japan Via Hong Kong to Lobito, Luanda, Matadi, Port Harcourt, Lagos, Tema, Monrovia, Freetown, Abidjan:- MUNESHIMA MARU sld. Japan Mar. 8, due Lagos Apr. 15.
EASTBOUND – From Lagos, Abidjan, Freetown, etc:- MISSISSIPPI MARU sld. Lagos Mar. 26, Tema Mar. 28, Freetown Apr. 2, Abidjan Apr. 7, due Hong Kong May 8, Japan May 12.
BLACK STAR LINE/USNH/WEST AFRICA
WESTBOUND – BENYA RIVER Philadelphia Mar. 21.
BLACK STAR LINE/UK/CONTINENT/WEST AFRICA
SOUTHBOUND – KLORTE LAGOON Hamburg Mar. 29, Bremen Apr. 1, Antwerp Apr. 2, Rotterdam Apr. 4.
NORTHBOUND – KLORTE LAGOON Bremen Mar. 23, Hamburg Mar. 27; KRIM PAWN RIVER Avonmouth Mar. 17.
DAFRA LINES
EASTBOUND – FRANKRIG slg. Charleston Apr. 16 due Jacksonville Apr. 17, New Orleans Apr. 27.
WESTBOUND – NIGERIA slg. Matadi Apr. 18, Luanda Apr. 16 Pointe Noire Apr. 20.
PALM LINE
SOUTHBOUND – ABIDJAN PALM sls. Monrovia Mar. 28; ILORIN PALM due Takoradi Mar. 28; KATSINA PALM due Apapa Mar. 27.
NORTHBOUND – KANO PALM sls. Apapa Mar. 28; LAGOS PALM due Sherbo Mar. 28
N.Y.K. LINE
WESTBOUND – SHIMANE MARU Tema Apr. 11/12, Lagos/Apapa Apr. 13/18, Douala Apr. 19/20, Pointe Noire Apr. 21/23, Abidjan Apr. 26/27.
EASTBOUND – SHIMANE MARU Lagos/Apapa Apr. 13/18, Douala Apr. 19/20, Pointe Noire Apr. 21/23, Abidjan Apr. 26/27.
MITSUI OSK LINE
HAVANA MARU sld. Kobe Mar. 5 due Lagos Apr. 8; La Plata Maru sld. Kobe Mar. 19 due Lagos Apr. 24; MOGAMISAN MARU slg. Kobe Apr. 4 due Lagos May 13.
MAERSK LINE
INWARDS – From Japan via Hong Kong to Matadi, Lagos, Abidjan: SUSAN MAERSK from Kobe Apr. 5 due Luanda May 2
OUTWARDS – From Matadi Lagos, Tema, Monrovia, Freetown, Takoradi: MAREN MAERSK from Freetown due Abidjan Apr. 7.
SCAN – LLOYD AB
HOEGH MELING slg. Hamburg Apr. 6, Antwerp Apr. 9, Rotterdam Apr. 11, Rouen Apr. 13; BANDA due Boma/Matadi Apr. 15, Luanda Apr. 17, Lobito Apr. 20.
SCANDINAVIAN WEST AFRICA LINE
NORTHBOUND – TORONTO CITY slg. W.A. Apr. for discharge Scan. May; CHRUS slg. W.A. 2nd half Apr. for discharge Scan. first half May.
ROYAL INTEROCEAN LINES
INWARDS – STRAAT FREMANTLE sld. Japan Feb. 18 due Port Harcourt Mar. 31, Lagos/Apapa Apr. 2, Tema Apr. 8, Takoradi Apr. 10, Abidjan Apr. 12. STRAAT MOZAMBIQUE sld. Hong Kong Feb. 8 due Tema Mar. 27, Abidjan Mar. 29, Monrovia Apr. 1, Freetown Apr. 3, Dakar Apr. 6, Conakry Apr. 9, Takoradi Apr. 13, Luanda opt. Apr. 24.
OUTWARDS – STRAAT FRANKLIN from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore opt. Hong Kong, Japan late Mar./early Apr. STRAAT MOZAMBIQUE from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore opt. Hong Kong, Shanghai opt., Japan late Mar.
FARRELL LINES
HOMEWARDS – AFRICAN PLANET sld. Matadi Mar. 30 for Luanda, Lobito, Abidjan, Monrovia, U.S. ports; AFRICAN STAR slg. Lagos/Apapa Mar. 30 for Port Harcourt, Douala, Abidjan, Monrovia, U.S. Ports.
OUTWARDS – AFRICAN MERCURY due Conakry Mar. 29 for Monrovia, Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema Apr. 6, Cabinda, Matadi, Luanda, Lobito; AFRICAN SUN due Dakar Apr. 15 for Freetown, Monrovia Apr. 23, Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema Apr. 30, Lagos/Apapa May 2, Douala.
WESTBOUND AFRICA LINE
SANTA MIA Tema Apr. 3, Lagos Apr. 8, Pointe Noire Apr. 11. SOUTHWIND slg. New Orleans Apr. 5, Houston Apr. 10 for Tema, Lagos, Pointe Noire.
THE E.A.C. LINES
SOUTHBOUND – SARGODHA Antwerp Apr. 29, Rotterdam Mar. 31, Rouen Apr. 2 for discharging Dakar Apr. 8 Freetown Apr. 11, Monrovia Apr. 12, Abidjan Apr. 14, Tema Apr. 16, Lome Apr. 18 Cotonou Apr. 19 Lagos/Apapa Apr. 25.
NORTHBOUND – Bogota Douala Mar. 31, Monrovia Apr. 4 discharging Amsterdam Apr. 12, Hamburg Apr.

UN in Africa

Among projects recently approved by the Governing Council of the UN Development Programme (UNDP) are the following (figures in parenthesis are the dollar equivalent of the recipient government's contributions; the name of the executing UN agency is also given).

Ghana: $390,000, fishery development, Tema ($285,000), FAO.

$281,000, assistance to the State Gold Mining Corporation ($47,400) UN.

$156,100, assistance to the Department of Meteorological Services ($76,100), WMO

Mali: $1,387,000, commercialisation of livestock and meat ($207,700), FAO.

Niger: $651,600, feasibility study for the industrial processing of millet (Phase III), ($96,300), FAO.

Rwanda: $459,600, pilot multi-sectoral rural development project in the Kigali Prefecture ($227,000), ILO.

Senegal: $721,400, Centre for the Development of Horticulture ($194,400) FAO.

$120,000, interpreter translator ($110,000), UN.

Togo: $293,000, strengthening of the National Bureau of Mineral Research ($161,800), UN.

$115,500, building construction centre, Cacavelli (Phase II) ($45,000), UN.

Zaire: $840,000, labour administration ($1,826,000), ILO.

$2,200,000, assistance to the Bureau of Roads ($1,826,500), IBRD

Nigeria: $141,100, high forest inventory and forest development ($627,200), FAO.

Regional: Dahomey, Ivory Coast, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Togo, Upper Volta: $252,400, multinational telecommunications training centre, Rufisque, Senegal ($48,400), ITU.

Chad: $1,384,000, retraining of primary teachers ($1,829,900), UNESCO.

• A German-Zaire company has been formed to build a cement works in Kisangani, the former Stanleyville, main town of Upper Zaire. The German side has 51 per cent of the $92m. capital and Zaire 49.

• Reduction by … per cent in diam… held by the Cen… Organisation in … announced by … Diamond prices … by 11.4 per cent … 1972. In conform… price rise, the valu… is now some £120… some £25m.

De Beers is co… make efforts to m… big world produ… stones smaller than … Machines specially … to help cut small … and relieve shortage… are being distribute… Beers.

In the US deliz… ation and the m… prices have raised … gem stones, of which … takes over half … output, by some 1… Against good … pects for gem … which Sierra Le… leading producer … that any American … might reduce … for gems, used … engagement and … rings. Japanese and … demand remains …

CAST in Ghana

Confirming … business of the … Ghana has been … by decree to a new … (Ghana Cons… Diamonds Limited) … to 55 per cent … Government and 45 … by the company. … Consolidated … Selection Trust … discussions have … in Accra between … a government … team and company … atives. "Further … will take place with … finalising details of … sition within the … decree." It has been … to defer for the … the issue of a … report and results … months to the end …

• In co-operation with … FAO and other … Unctad is to undertake … sultations to improve … of certain primary … modities to world … stable and acceptable … A number of … submitted lists of … modities they would … have considered …

Does tourism pay?

In answer to a Parliamentary question a Gambian Government spokesman said that although it was difficult to quantify the benefits which tourism brought to the country, it increased Government revenue significantly and provided employment. Airport tax collected from charter tourists since its introduction in 1970 came to over D65,000. During the last tourist season land rent from hotels came to some D240,000 and for the current season it was expected to be some D430,000. Import revenue from alcoholic drinks had also increased significantly. The average tourist was thought to spend about D25 a day, much of it on local handicrafts. Over a thousand Gambians were employed in hotels and this number would soon increase. Local production of vegetables and eggs was also encouraged by tourism.

• President Nixon has announced that he has decided to begin selling off selected commodities from the US stockpiles. No exact breakdown of the quantities has been disclosed but the President's authority to make the sales is limited to $1,700m. At the last official audit, the stockpiles included 1.3m. tons of primary aluminium, 268,000 tons of rubber and 250,000 tons of tin. Aluminium, tin, manganese, rubber and industrial diamonds are reported to be among commodities which will be put on the market soon.

Tin prices fell heavily from recent high levels following the announcement. Since 1968, the US has had an agreement with the International Tin Council to suspend stockpile sales and the International Tin Agreement buffer stock already has a surplus.

Nigeria's trade surplus

Nigeria's trade surplus for 1972 was 424m. naira, almost double the 214m. naira of 1971. Crude petroleum valued at 1,156m. naira was exported, compared to 953m. naira in 1971. Almost all traditional exports, however, suffered a serious decline both in volume and in value. Raw cotton exports declined from 11m. naira in 1971 to only 600,000 naira. Palm oil declined from 3.4m. naira to 2,200,000 naira. The increase of 203m. naira in the value of petroleum exports more than offset the fall of 85.6m. naira in the export value of other commodities.

Increased domestic consumption and processing, low world prices and nearly two years of drought and bad weather are officially said to account for the decline of non-oil exports.

Imports declined by eight per cent, from 1,079m. naira to 991m. naira. Imports of food, however, rose from 88m. naira in 1971 to 95m. in 1972 – a rise of about eight per cent. The value of machinery imports fell from 137m. naira to 125m. naira.

When invisibles are taken into account reserves declined from 303m. naira to 270m. naira. The invisible bill rose, while capital inflow declined from a net of 293m. naira in 1971 to 239m. naira in 1972.

A Lagos home service broadcast commentary said that oil revenues must now be diverted in a big way to revive agriculture, which for so long provided the bulk of development finance. "The indications are that the rapid rate of economic growth experienced by this country in the post-civil war years may have reached its peak and a levelling-off period is about to follow."

EEC talks

Ministers from Nigeria, Sierra Leone and the East African Community have met the Rwanda Minister of Trade and Industry, who is Chairman of the Council of Association formed by the existing 18 African states associated with the EEC. The same three Commonwealth ministers who include Mr. Wenike Briggs, Nigerian Commissioner for Trade and Industry, later went on to Guinea to attend a meeting of the Carribbean Free Trade Council, for further discussions on the EEC's offer of association to a number of Commonwealth countries. African Commonwealth states last month agreed to set up a secretariat in association with the East African Community to co-ordinate their approach to the EEC and to the existing associates.

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SITUATIONS VACANT

UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS IN SOCIOLOGY WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON POPULATION 1973-74 SESSION

Applications are invited from graduates with at least a Second Class Upper degree or its equivalent, and from final year degree students expecting to graduate in June 1973, for admission to the University of Ibadan for MASTER'S DEGREE and DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREE in Sociology with special emphasis on Population. Five scholarships are available, financed by an external grant to the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Science, University of Ibadan. The awards are open to graduates of all African universities.

METHODS OF APPLICATION

(i) Applications must be made on the prescribed forms which together with normal application forms for postgraduate study are obtainable from:

The Admissions Officer,
(Postgraduate and Scholarships),
The Registry,
University of Ibadan,
Ibadan, Nigeria

Envelopes should be marked "Sociology Population Postgraduate Award."

(ii) Applications from within Nigeria must be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope (9½" × 6½") together with thirty Kobo in stamps or Postal Money Order for a copy of the University Postgraduate Prospectus.

Applications from outside Nigeria must be accompanied by an International Reply Coupon for 52.00 to cover the cost and air postage of the University Postgraduate Prospectus.

(iii) Completed application forms together with the appropriate fee must be returned to the address in (i) above, not later than May 31, 1973.

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Applicants Quoting Reference: ISL/1 should write, giving full personal details to:-

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Federal Statutory Corporations Service Commission.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the vacant post of Senior Civil Engineers in the Nigerian Ports Authority.

Salary: SAP.2 — N4,250/4,500 x 130 — N4,760. Point of entry depends on qualification and experience.

Qualification and Experience: Candidates must have a good University Degree or its equivalent in Civil Engineering with at least 5 years post qualification experience in the design of Structural Concrete and/or Steel Works and Site Supervision of Contracts. Corporate membership of a recognised International Professional Institutions will be an advantage.

Preference will be given to candidates possessing qualifications that make them registrable by the Council of Registered Engineers of Nigeria and having post qualification experience relating to Hydraulic Engineering and/or Harbour works or Heavy Civil Engineering works.

The Conditions of Service are as prescribed for the staff in the Nigerian Ports Authority and as may be amended from time to time.

Furnished accommodation may be provided where possible at the rate of 8⅓% of salary up to a maximum of N300 per annum or subsidised rent for those living outside the Authority's quarters.

Successful Expatriates will be appointed on contract with reasonable contract addition to Basic Salary.

Method of Application: Application forms are obtainable from any of the following officers:-

(a) Secretary & Chief Administrative Officer, Statutory Corporations Service Commission, 30, Marina, Lagos.

(b) Secretaries, State Public Service Commissions and State Statutory Corporations Service Commissions.

(c) Resident Commissioner, Statutory Corporations Service Commission (Branch Office), Z.21 Queen Elizabeth Road, Zaire. Overseas applicants should obtain application forms from Nigerian Embassies/High Commissions in their countries of residence.

Closing Date: Completed application forms with photostat copies of certificates and two recent passport photographs of the applicant signed by the applicant at the back, must be submitted to the Secretary and Chief Administrative Officer, at the above address not later than 20th April, 1973.

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UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN

VACANCIES

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the following vacant posts:

1. DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

Lecturers (2 positions)
(with Consultant Status)

Applicants must have postgraduate professional qualifications. Acquisition of postgraduate research degree will be an advantage. Applicants must have had postgraduate experience in any of the following fields — Endocrinology, Cardiology, Nephrology, Chest Diseases, Dermatology, Neurology, Infectious Diseases and Gastroenterology.

2. DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY

Senior Lecturer:

Applicants should possess several years of post-doctoral experience in University teaching and research especially in the area of toxicology and/or enzymology.

3. DEPARTMENT OF OTO-RHINO-LARYNGOLOGY

Lecturer: (with Consultant Status)

Preference will be given to applicants with the F.R.C.S. or equivalent qualification in the specialty. Duties will include clinical work at the hospital as well as lectures to Medical Students and Nurses.

4. DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY

(a) Professor of Petroleum Geology
(b) Senior Lecturer
(c) Lecturer/Assistant Lecturer

Candidates for (a) above should be petroleum Geologists/Sedimentologists/Stratigraphers of long experience or Reservoir Engineers. Experience in Oil exploration will be an advantage and preference will be given to candidates with academic background. The appointment is a temporary one and for two years only. Candidates able to accept appointment for one year will be considered.

For positions (b) and (c) preference will be given to Candidates in the area geophysics, stratigraphy, geochemistry, engineering geology, mineralogy or economic geology.

5. DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

Senior Lecturer:

Applicants should have doctorate degrees and several years of experience in teaching and research at University level, together with experience in the field of electron spin resonance. The successful candidate will be expected to take responsibility for the operation of the varian E4 Spectrometer in the Department of Chemistry. Appointment to commence 1 October, 1973.

6. DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Senior Lecturers/Lecturers

Preference will be given to specialists in (1) Mathematical Economics (2) Operations Research (3) Mathematical Programming (4) Systems Analysis (5) Business Economics (6) Econometrics (7) Statistics and (8) International Economics and Development. Appointments to commence 1 October, 1973.

7. DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Senior Lecturer/Lecturer in Politics:

Two vacancies exist for the first position. Applicants with specialization in International Relations will be given preference. Candidates should be able to teach Theories of International Relations, International Law, Conflict Resolution, International Institutions, International Economic Relations and Foreign Policy Analysis at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Candidates with Sub-specialization in Political Theory or Political Sociology will have an advantage.

Applicants for the second post must possess good graduate and postgraduate qualifications in the general field of Political Science with specialty in African Politics and Comparative Politics. Candidates with interest in Political Behaviour will be at an advantage.

8. DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES

Lecturer/Assistant Lecturer in German:

Candidates should have good Honours degrees in German or its equivalent and research experience in some or more aspects of German Language or Culture since C.1700 — ab

SITUATIONS VACANT Cont.

(Continued from previous page)

UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN

9. DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Senior Lecturer/Lecturer in Philosophy of Religion

Applicants will be expected to have taken a first degree in Religious Studies or Theology with Philosophy of Religion as one of his/her papers before working for the higher degree. A knowledge of the theology and philosophy of African Traditional Religion will be an advantage.

10. READING CENTRE

Tutor/Assistant Tutor:

Preference will be given to trained graduate teachers with qualifications and/or experience in the teaching of English as a second language. Successful applicants will be required to teach Use of English and Remedial English Courses to undergraduates and to perform such other functions as the Director may assign from time to time.

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Tutor	N4830
Assistant Lecturer	N2140 x 100 – N2560
Assistant Tutor	(If holding an approved higher degree N2460 x 100 – N2660

(Applicable salary scale and placement within the scale will depend on qualifications and relevant experience)

12. CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

Except where it is otherwise stated, appointments are to commence as soon as possible and for three years initially subject to review thereafter. Passages are paid for family on appointment approved overseas leave and termination where applicable. F.S.S.U./N.U.J.S.S., children and car allowance. Part-furnished accommodation or housing allowance is provided.

13. METHOD OF APPLICATION

Detailed application (4 copies) stating age, full qualifications, experience and naming three referees by 7th April, 1973 to the Registrar, University of Ibadan, Nigeria, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

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- assist readers and instruct trainees in the effective use of the library.
- do the translation of documents and correspondence from English to French as well as French to English.
- act for the Librarian in his absence.

EXPERIENCE DESIRED: At least three years professional experience in library technical services.

SALARY: the salary for this position is attractive and negotiable.

METHOD OF APPLICATION: All applications should be in writing giving full details of qualification, experience, present salary status and fringe benefits being received from present employer. All envelopes should be marked with the title of the position being applied for and addressed to:

The Personnel Officer,
International Institute of Tropical Agriculture,
P.M.B. 5320,
IBADAN, Nigeria.

NOTE: Only applications which show the requisite qualification and experience stated for the position will be acknowledged.

CLOSING DATE: 23rd April, 1973.

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Dateline Africa

GHANA

Record trade figures

A trade surplus of 174m. cedis was recorded by Ghana in 1972 in contrast to a deficit of 65m. cedis in 1971. Provisional Central Bureau of Statistics figures show imports of 386m. cedis and exports of 570 cedis against imports of 445m. cedis and exports of 380m. cedis in 1971. The decreases in the value of imports was 11 per cent and the increase in the value of exports some 50 per cent. The bureau says that the improvement was due to the favourable world price of cocoa, general improvement in export performance, and strict enforcement of import controls. Cocoa beans accounted for 54 per cent of exports.

Record exports of more than 710,000 tons of logs, over 41 per cent above the 1971 figure, contributed to the export surplus. There was also a 7.2 per cent rise in exports of sawn timber, which reached 147,000 tons, reversing the downward trend of the previous year.

● Colonel Acheampong has spoken of a plot by some Ghanaians to create economic difficulties to discredit the Government. He alleged that certain people, aided by some disgruntled politicians, bought large stocks of foreign food and deliberately destroyed them to create artificial shortages. They also bought foodstuffs produced under the Operation Feed Yourself and either smuggled them out of Ghana or deliberately destroyed them. He said these activities showed that some Ghanaians were not sincere to themselves, to their fellowmen and to their country. This insincerity, he pointed out, was even more harmful than the present economic problems. Colonel Acheampong was speaking to members of the nursing and allied professions at State House.

● According to the Ghana Timber Marketing Board the dock strike in Nigeria, which delayed the arrival of ships from Nigeria, has been responsible for some of the congestion at Takoradi. But in addition some exporters have been using the port as a marketing centre. To relieve congestion the following rules are now in force:- 1: exporters can bring logs to the harbour only when they are sure that the shipping is available, 2: the Timber Marketing Board will confiscate wawa and softwoods which remain unshipped for 4 weeks and all other species remaining unshipped for 8 weeks; 3: penal rates will be levied on owners of logs responsible for congestion.

Chinese loan

China has renewed a 40m. cedi loan made to Ghana during Dr. Nkrumah's regime. Only about 5m. cedis of the interest-free loan, which carries a 10 year moratorium and 20 years repayment period, had been used before the 1966 coup. China intends to use the loan to establish irrigation schemes and chemical complexes in the Greater Accra and Volta Regions, a cotton complex in the north, and textile manufacturing.

This was announced by Mr. Kwasi Amoaka-Atta, deputy chairman of the committee for economic co-operation with socialist countries, after a meeting with the sub-committee for the reactivation of the Aveyime Tannery in the Volta Region. Mr. Amoako-Atta said that the Czechs, who had begun the project, would undertake the reactivation.

Other projects of Eastern bloc origin to be reactivised are the Prefabricated Concrete Panel factory in Accra, Tarkwa Gold Refinery and Tema Food Complex, all built by the USSR. Yugoslavia will reactivate the tomato factories at Wenchi and Pwalagu.

Delegations from Hungary, East Germany and Czechoslovakia are due in Ghana soon to discuss the establishment of a number of projects, said Mr. Amoako-Atta.

"Suppliers' credts" extended to the Nurumah regime by socialist countries amounted to some £38m., of which almost £20m. came from the Soviet Union. Czechoslovak credits were the next most important (£8,300,000), followed by Polish (£4,400,000), Chinese (£2,300,000), Hungarian (1¼m.), East German (£840,000), Rumanian (£836,000). Most projects were suspended when Dr. Nkrumah was overthrown.

● Farmers in the Eastern Region are to be encouraged to cultivate three selected export crops – ginger, potatoes and tea – during the current phase of Operation Feed Yourself. The Eastern Region Agricultural Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture will set up model farms to cultivate 100 acres of ginger, ten acres of potatoes and four acres of tea.

● Eight more Ghanaian girls employed as maidservants in Lebanon have returned from Beirut. This brings to 36 the number of girls repatriated from Lebanon since the publication of the Decree which makes it an offence to employ Ghanaians under 17 as domestic servants, clerical workers, artisans or apprentices outside Ghana.

● Mr. Joe Mensah, Dr. Busia's Finance Minister, was warned by the Taylor Assets Committee not to be "contemptuous" when answering questions about the assets of the deposed Prime Minister. Mr. Justice J. N. K. Taylor warned: "I am not happy about the answers you have been giving to questions put to you by counsel. Your answers are so contemptuous, showing that you have no respect for this committee. If this continues we shall take a serious view of it and deal with you."

● After a thanksgiving service organised by his family and friends to welcome him back from self-imposed exile in Europe, Mr. E. Ayeh-Kumi, former economic adviser to Dr. Nkrumah, said that he planned to establish industrial projects in Ghana as his contribution towards national reconstruction. He said that he had completed a survey of Ghana's industrial potential and would soon return to Holland to get himself fully prepared to help in the economic war.

● An Italian banker is studying investment possibility in a million dollar sawmill and veneer factory at Kumasi. Dr. Amodio Nicola, managing director of Cassa di Risparmio in Specia, has also said that Ghana has tourist attractions.

● Import licences worth 3.5m. cedis have been approved for allocation to the Pharmaceutical Division of GIHOC for imports of raw materials to produce drugs for Ghana and for export. Plans are reported for exporting the division's products to Nigeria, Liberia and the Ivory Coast.

The Ghana Ambassador in Paris, Mr. Joseph Seddoh, and Mrs Seddoh, receive M. Yvon Bourges, former Secretary for Co-operation and now Minister of Commerce, at the Independence Day reception.

• Ghana has signed agreements with Poland and Israel on co-operation in cultural, educational, scientific and artistic fields. Under the agreements, Ghana would exchange educationists, scientists and sportsmen with the two countries.

• The Ghana Government has embarked on a 2,000-acre irrigation project at Akrobi, near Wenchi, to help farmers produce tomatoes for the Wenchi factory.

• The Bank of Ghana has voted 10m. cedis for the establishment of cattle ranches.

• Ghana Cement Works has terminated the appointment of its 27 distributors whose activities, it is claimed, have contributed to periodic shortages and high prices of cement.

• The Accra sewage scheme, begun in 1970, is expected to be completed by May.

• A Department of Rural Development has been created to continue the activities of the dissolved National Service Corps, the Rural Housing Loan Scheme and the Workers Brigade.

SIERRA LEONE

Price increase probe continues

The Barthes-Wilson commission set up to inquire into "all factors contributing to increase in prices and to make recommendations" has found it necessary, during the writing of its report, to invite further evidence. In private sittings, evidence was heard from the President of the Butchers Association, the Senior Assistant Public Health Inspector, the Acting City Treasurer, Freetown, and the General Manager West Africa Shoe Company (now known as Apollo Petroleum Company). Among matters considered was the current meat shortage. Earlier evidence was heard from an agricultural chemist at Fourah Bay College, Dr. H. O. Jarret, on the production of vegetable and the possibility of producing egusi on a large scale locally.

• A delegation from the Marampa/Masimera Chiefdom, where Sierra Leone Development Company (Delco) has its iron-ore mine, has called on the President to express gratitude for the new agreement signed with Delco. Under this the government will nominate two directors to the Delco board, and company payments to the chiefdom authorities will rise from £5,000 to £10,000 annually. The company will also pay royalties of 3p a ton and higher income tax. The government has dropped the idea of taking a 51 per cent interest in the company, as it lacks "liquid assets" for the purchase.

President Stevens receiving a message from Kim Il Sung, the North Korean leader, from a four-man delegation led by the Minister of Education, Kim Sunk Gi. (p.418)

• An air services agreement between Nigeria and Sierra Leone has been signed in Lagos by Federal Commissioner for Transport Dikko and Sierra Leone High Commissioner Dr. Fitzjohn. Details were not disclosed.

Mr. Wright, Sierra Leone Director of Civil Aviation, Mr. Obi, Chairman of Nigeria Airways were present at the signing.

• The Principal of Fourah Bay, University of Sierra Leone, Canon Harry Sawyerr

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has suggested that the Engineering Department of the College should be used as a research arm of the Ministry of works. He emphasised the need, for example, for investigating suitable methods of irrigation and of constructing terraces which would hold the weight of heavy rainfall. Overseas advisers could not provide the solution to Sierra Leone's problems, and ministries should listen to University people who were striving to understand the problems.

• Two Soviet cinema photographers are shooting two colour documentary films on Sierra Leone to portray the proclamation of the Republic and the success in the fight for economic independence.

• The Brian Johnson Prize in Pathology at Oxford University has been awarded to Dr. Henry M.Steady, now of St. Peter's College, Oxford.

• A cultural group from Havana has made a five day visit to Sierra Leone.

LIBERIA
Aid from Taiwan

Taiwan is to help Liberia build a sugar refinery and an agricultural machine tool maintenance plant. The decision followed a meeting in Taipei between the Chinese Nationalist Economic Affairs Minister, Mr Y.S. Sun, and a Liberian delegation led by the Finance Minister, Mr. Stephen Tolbert.

• President Tolbert has been in Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast for talks with President Felix Houphouet-Boigny. The talks came 10 days after a visit by the Liberian Foreign Minister, Mr. Rochefort Weeks, to Ivory Coast.

The joint Ivory Coast-Liberian Commission was due to hold a five-day conference in Abidjan this month.

• President Tolbert has personally arrested a taxi driver for overloading his cab with passengers. The President who has been campaigning against road casualties saw the taxi packed with nine people as he was walking along a street. He stopped the driver and before handing him over to the police told him that he had also committed the offence of driving on worn tyres.

NIGERIA
Who are the students?

University education in Nigeria is already being subsidised to the tune of between 80 and 90 per cent by the Government. This is one of the findings of research into the socio-economic background of Nigerian university students, conducted by the Human Resources Research Unit of the University of Lagos. The research bulletin, just published, shows that nearly 50 per cent of Nigerian university students come from the poorest homes. It also disclosed that the universities tend to draw most of their students from their immediate localities.

The study was carried out between February and October 1972, and covered 2,852 undergraduates in the universities, as well as nearly 2,400 graduates scattered all over the country.

In addition, 177 employers employing over 177,000 persons responded to questionnaires and provided information which assisted in the evaluation of graduate employment prospects; this would be published in later bulletins.

The study notes that 94 per cent of all Western State students are enrolled at Ife, Ibadan and Lagos, while Ahmadu Bello University accounted for most of the northern states students, adding that the same geographical and ethnic polarisation is noticeable at Nsukka and Benin.

The bulletin adds that there were glaring inequities in the system of government scholarship awards as between individuals and as between states, which need to be remedied.

• Agriculture in Nigeria will take a turn for the better with the introduction of modern technology on the farms, the Federal Commissioner for Agriculture Dr. J.O.J. Okezie, told a team of Japanese agricultural experts who are carrying out a feasibility study on rice production in the East Central State.

Substantial increases have been achieved in recent production of palm oil and rice, he said. Palm oil production rose from 309,000 long tons in the 1970/71 season to 380,000 long tons last year while rice production rose from 207,000 to 265,000 long tons during the same period, the Commissioner noted. He claimed, however, that world market price fluctuations had caused a shortfall in cocoa production which amounted to 230,000 long tons during the 1971/72 season compared with 240,000 long tons in the previous year.

The Japanese team, led by a specialist in soil service and an irrigation expert is spending six weeks in Nigeria before travelling to other African countries for similar projects.

• Agreements have been signed in Lagos for the establishment of Nigeria's first salt factories. The two factories, estimated to cost 1m. naira each, will produce over 3,000 tons of edible salt annually.

They will be sited at Sapele in the Mid-West and Ewekoro in the Western State and will be jointly owned by the Federal Government and two companies – the Atlantic Salt and Chemical Company of Los Angeles and the Nigerian Salt and Allied Chemical Industry Limited. The government will hold a controlling share of 55 per cent in each.

Federal Commissioner for Industry Dr. J.E. Adetoro said after the signing ceremony that Nigeria would save about 8m. naira foreign exchange by the establishment of the factories.

• At the beginning of a four-day visit to the Ivory Coast Dr. Arikpo said that all West African countries should negotiate as a group with Europe. Earlier the Commissioner for External Affairs had visited Dahomey and Togo. Relations between Nigeria and the Ivory Coast were broken off in 1968, when the Ivory Coast recognised the rebel regime. A Nigerian *Chargé d'affaires* was posted to Abidjan in 1971, and later, an Ivory Coast *Chargé* was sent to Lagos.

• Mr. Wahab Goodluck, president of the Nigerian Trades Union Congress, has called on the Federal Government to order the immediate allocation of low cost housing in Surulere to low-income workers. The flats, which belong to the Lagos State Property and Development Corporation, were used to accommodate visitors and participants at the All Africa Games in January. Mr. Goodluck said that the immediate allocation of these flats would go a long way to reduce housing problems in Lagos and minimise hardships imposed on workers by "heartless landlords".

• The chairman of the Federal Corporations Standing Tenders Board, Alhaji Musa Daggash, has been named first Nigerian chairman of the reconstituted board of directors of Barclays Bank of Nigeria. He is one of the five Nigerians appointed by the Federal Government to serve on the board following the government's acquisition of 40 per cent of the bank's share capital. Others are; Mr. Olu Akinkugbe, a pharmacist in Ibadan; Alhaji Shehu Malami of Sokoto; Mr. J.O. Olajide of the Federal Ministry of Finance; Mr. C.E. Enuenwosu of the Central Bank; and Mr. G.I. Anyia, of the Federal Ministry of Trade. Mr. W. Duncan has been appointed a director as a nominee of Barclays Bank International, London.

Kwara tax killings

An official inquiry has been ordered into disturbances in Kwara State during which four people, including two policeman, were killed, and several others injured.

The disturbances, in the village of Ejule, came in the wake of a tax drive by local government tax collectors. The officials were attacked apparently by tax defaulters and several houses and government vehicles set ablaze. Policemen sent to the village to maintain order were also attacked.

An official announcement said all was now quiet in the area and police units were standing by to prevent any renewed disturbances.

• Some 400 workers have lost their jobs following the closure of the Ilorin factory of Tate and Lyle (Nigeria). Mr. C.O. Akindolire, administration and finance director, said the controlled price of cube sugar, which the factory makes, made it impossible for the factory to operate profitably. "We have to close the factory to stop making losses because the cost of producing the cube sugar locally is at present above the stipulated controlled retail price." The price was unrealistic because of the world price rise. He blamed the scarcity of sugar in Nigeria on the price imposed by the Price Control Board.

The factory, however, accounted for only 20 per cent of the company's turnover, said Mr. Akindolire, and the compnay intended to offer its Nigerian shareholders 44 per cent of its share capital. Shareholders have been offered two shares for each share held. At present Nigerian shareholders have only 20 per cent of the capital.

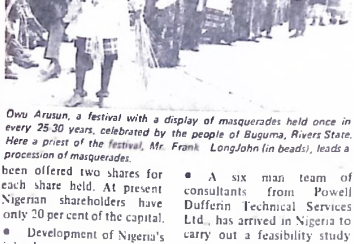
• Development of Nigeria's inland waterways would help unity with her land-locked neighbours – Dahomey, Upper Volta, Niger, Chad and the Cameroon – the Federal Director of Inland Waterways, Mr. W.A.E. George, told the symposium on the role of science and technology in national development. These countries, in co-operation with Nigeria, were carrying out an international study to ascertain the possibility of using the Niger and Benue for major inter-state transportation, said Mr. George. Already the first ships belonging to the Niger Republic were sailing up to Niamey.

• Information Commissioners have held a two-day meeting to review arrangements for next year's World Black Arts festival in Lagos.

The meeting, presided over by Federal Commissioner for Information, Chief Anthony Enahoro, approved proposals for the building of a national arts theatre.

• Chief Justice of the Federation Dr. Taslim Elias has called for the re-establishment of the Judicial Service Commission. This, he said in Enugu, was necessary for judicial personnel to be acknowledged as being approved by their colleagues rather than being nominees of the executive.

• The Institute of African Studies at Ibadan University has appealed to the public for any information leading to the recovery of 16 Yoruba house posts believed stolen several weeks ago.



Owu Arusun, a festival with a display of masquerades held once in every 25-30 years, celebrated by the people of Buguma, Rivers State. Here a priest of the festival, Mr. Frank LongJohn (in beads), leads a procession of masquerades.

• A six man team of consultants from Powell Duffernn Technical Services Ltd., has arrived in Nigeria to carry out a feasibility study on the coal industry.

• Research on the use of rubber trees for the proposed pulp industry is being undertaken by the Nigerian Institute for Rubber Research, the director Dr. Cyril Ayeke, has told federal administrative officers who were in the Mid-West State on a two-week attachment to state organisations.

Dr. Ayeke said the trees might soon be used for manufacture of cheap paper. Research was also going on into the possibility of producing rubber trees capable of withstanding disease. With cross-breeding of new species, yields worth 40,000 naira an acre might be developed.

• The United Central Labour Organisation of Nigeria has held a preparatory meeting in connection with the coming All-African Trade Unions' Conference due to be held in Addis Ababa. The meeting, attended by representatives of the major trade unions in Nigeria, discussed a number of matters, including the proposed formation of a united African labour force as initiated by the OAU.

• President Nixon hopes to visit Nigeria and other African countries during his second term, he told a group of wives of US ambassadors in the White House.

• A 10m. naira shipping agency agreement has been signed between Continental Lines (Africa) Ltd. and the American-Nigeria Corporation of Michigan.

• Mr. Gabriel Ijewere, of the Foreign Ministry, has been named as Nigeria's new High Commissioner in Ghana.

From the States

The East Central State-owned *Renaissance* has urged the Organisation of African Unity to "come out in open condemnation of the policies and methods" of the Palestinian Black September organisation.

In the first Nigerian press comment on the Khartoum killings of three diplomats by Black September guerrillas, the newspaper said: "An organisation that adopts naked murder as a means of settling disputes and achieving its objectives is detestable". The Palestinians would lose sympathy abroad said the editorial, for a strategy of murder was hardly a sane way of achieving liberation.

• Agricultural officers in Benue-Plateau State are to be given funds to buy produce direct from farmers, the State Governor, Police Commissioner Joseph Gomwalk, has announced.

He said at an agricultural show at Jos that the new arrangement, would eliminate the shortage of licensed buying agents and help to curb smuggling of cash crops to neighbouring countries.

• The Governor has also called for the setting up of twelve centres to rehabi[l]t beggars and destitutes in[to] of the four planned.

• The Western State G[o]ernment has been asked former MP Chief Gb[e]Akin-Deko to expe[d] action on the report of t[he] Sijuade Commission Enquiry into the Id[ia] chieftancy dispute.

• The Western State [has] spent a total of 800,640 [on] people of Western St[ate] origin repatriated from Gha[na] between November 1969 [and] March this year. The amo[unt] represents interest-free loa[ns] transport, food, clothing [and] rehabilitation.

• Water reserves have [been] found near Abeokuta dur[ing] a geological survey for W[est] African Breweries Ltd. properly tapped the reser[voir] could serve the ent[ire] population of Abeokuta which is currently hit by [an] acute water shortage.

• Launching the [anti-]publicity campaign in Kw[ara] State the Governor, Police Commissioner Audu Ba[ba] urged all citizens of the st[ate] to make sure that they [were] counted and gave correct answers to enumerators. He said that the government would make sure that [the] unfortunate incidents in [the] 1963 census did not recur.

• Rivers State Govern[or] Diete-Spiff has formal[ly] received the first consignment of four out of eight ferries ordered for the State Transport Corporation from Holland. The ferries, built by Conoship, were ordered under a 2.8m. naira loan from the Dutch Government.

• River State is to establish a fishing settlement to accommodate 1,000 fishermen at Gold Coast village near Degema.

• The South Eastern State has awarded scholarships to 662 pupils in the State for this academic year.

• Lagos State Government is to undertake a study of traffic problems of metropolitan Lagos in preparation for a traffic management scheme.

• The Federal Government has taken over control and management of Tafawa Balewa Square in Lagos.

GUINEA

Big bauxite mine begins

The £72m. bauxite mining complex at Boke is to be inaugurated on May 12, the 26th anniversary of the Guinea Democratic Party (PDG). The board of the *Compagnie des Bauxites de Guinée* (CBG) has just held a special meeting at the new port of Kamsar to work out steps to be taken before the complex goes into operation. The board, presided over by Economy and Finance Minister Ismael Toure, decided to award the contract for transporting the ore to the National Maritime Transport Company (Sotramar) while a Canadian company affiliated to the Canadian National Railways won the contract for the maintenance of the 82-mile rail link between Kamsar and the mine at Sangaredi.

The board also adopted a Guinea government memorandum on employment which, while underlining the need to engage qualified personnel, called on the company to Africanise totally the management personnel within six years. In a statement to the board, M. Ismael Toure said that it was expected that the complex would treat 900,000 tons of ore between now and the end of the year. The CBG is owned jointly by the Guinea government (49 per cent), and the Halco Company, which includes Harvey Aluminium, Alcan, Pechiney, Ugine Kuhlmann, Aluminium Company of America, Vereinigte Aluminium Werke and Montecatini-Eddison.

• The Lamco group (Liberia American Swedish Minerals Company) have denied that they are to participate in the newly constituted Mifergui group for exploiting Guinea's iron ore (see *West Africa* February 19). Although this does not automatically preclude Liberian government participation outside Lamco, it renders less likely the possibility that Mifergui will be able to use the railway from Mount Nimba to the coast in Liberia for evacuation of its iron ore.

• Conakry Radio has acknowledged that the mercenaries reported on board the *Albatross* in the Canary Islands (see *West Africa*, March 12) had been due to go to Equatorial Guinea and not to Guinea. The radio went on: "It does not matter whether the aggression was intended against Equatorial Guinea or the Republic of Guinea. What matters is that it was directed against Africa, our fatherland. It must be known that as long as any African territory continues to suffer foreign domination, Guinea – the proud formidable Guinea of Ahmed Sekou Touré – will never bury the hatchet."

• A National Economic Council has been set up in Guinea. The council, whose members will consist of Central Committee members, government ministers, staff of the Armed Forces and representatives of youth and women's movements, workers and firms will meet at least once a year to examine Guinea's general economic situation.

UPPER VOLTA

Action against teachers

The Government has suspended two top teachers' union officials, and taken legal action against them for spreading "false news" during a recent teachers' strike. A communiqué from the Civil Service Ministry, read over radio and TV, said they had been responsible for leaflets distributed in connection with the strike, which began late in January, and ended on February 12.

The communiqué said the leaflets claimed there had been "massive arrests" of teachers and students, that government "emissaries" had gone from door to door trying to bribe teachers not to join the strike, and that "killers" had been sent to "assassinate" certain union leaders in Ouagadougou and Bobo-Dioulasso. A further widely distributed leaflet, calling for a struggle until "final victory", was a new appeal to violence and rebellion, the communiqué added.

CONGO

Anti-guerrilla operations

Following a government operation against guerrilla bands led by Lt. Ange Diawara, ten of the guerrillas were killed, and food, weapons and ammunition were seized. A guerrilla leader, Sergeant Olouka, right-hand man to Lt. Diawara, was captured and later executed. Three other rebels have been taken prisoner, including a 14 year old boy, whose father was killed in the action. The boy, a cousin of Diawara, was later released and adopted by President Ngouabi, to live in army headquarters with his own children.

According to the radio, Diawara is "probably wounded" and the remains of his band were wandering in the bush without food or ammunition. It would not be long before they were all killed or captured. The operation was personally directed by President Ngouabi, alongside his Chief of Staff, Colonel Joachim Yhombi-Opango. During the operation, the President had held talks with local inhabitants, youth leaders, the brother of the late Abbé Fulbert Youlou, and had appealed for vigilance by village and district committees.

Two more French teachers were arrested in connection with the February plot, allegedly engineered by Lt. Diawara and his supporters. They were Mm. Berhard Quereix, teacher of the Lycée Technique, and Leichmaniz, teacher at the Lycée Savorgnan de Brazza. M. Leichmaniz was subsequently released. Four other teachers, including two women, were arrested at the time of the unveiling of the plot. Several dozen students and political personalities, including former Premier Pascal Lissouba, and former Information Minister Sylvain Bemba, have been arrested in connection with the plot. President Ngouabi has said that all will receive a public trial, and that there was proof of the guilt of the French teachers, who are being held at army headquarters in Brazzaville. French consular officials have had access to them.

M. Thierry Mignon, an observer from the International Federation of the Rights of Man, has said that for the moment none of the suspects have had any access to lawyers, and there was no legal warrant for their detention. "There had been no procedure, nor guarantee for their defence". Mlle Fioux, one of the French teachers, was described at a public meeting as having been "captured in the course of a military operation in the bush, when everyone in Brazzaville knows she was taken from her home." M. Mignon also claimed that Congolese detainees had been tortured.

Subsequently it was announced in Paris that Maître Gisèle Halimi of the Paris bar would undertake the defence of the five French teachers.

SENEGAL

Student unrest continues

The three main administrative offices of the Lycée Van Vollenhoven in Dakar were set on fire on the night of March 15-16. Most of the administrative files and personal dossiers on students were burnt. The same night fires were started in four secondary schools in St. Louis, but in only one case was the damage severe. "Arsonists" also attacked two police trucks and a police station, according to *Le Soleil*.

The new attacks are continued signs of student unrest following the suspension of over fifty students from the university early in February. A three-day student strike at the end of February culminated in a demonstration in the centre of Dakar in which windows were broken. There was also an attempt to burn university offices. No official indication of what sanctions have been taken following these incidents have been given, but a warning was issued of severe measures after the strike.

Student tracts have called for the readmission of those suspended, the right to form associations, the removal of certain teachers, teaching reforms, and an improvement in equipment.

MAURITANIA

French envoy leaves

M.Adrien Dufour, French Ambassador in Mauritania has now left Nouakchott, where he has been since September 1969. He was received before he left by President Moktar Ould Daddah who presented him with the medal of Grand Officer of the Mauritanian Order of Merit.

In February it was reported in *Le Monde* that the French Ambassador was being withdrawn after the Mauritanians had asked him to renounce his title of dean of the diplomatic corps. (In nearly all France's former African colonies, cooperation agreements provide for the French Ambassador to be automatically the dean, although this is against standard diplomatic practice). Official sources, however, denied that M.Dufour's departure was related to the question of diplomatic seniority. He had been due to leave for several months. It is pointed out that M.Dufour personally had excellent relations with the Mauritanians.

• French military assistance to Mauritania ends officially on April 1, it has been announced in Nouakchott. Agreements between France and Mauritania lapsed at the beginning of the year, and the new agreements signed in February did not include any military provisions.

• The Mauritanian Government has set the size of the capital of the new national industrial and mining corporation at 2,153m. francs CFA. This will include the shares held by the government in the Miferma and Somima mining companies, and advance payments made by the companies. Early this year the government handed over to the corporation its share in Miferma and Somima, and authorized it to take control over prospecting for and mining of mineral deposits throughout the country.

• A marine fishing agreement has been signed between Mauritania and the USSR, following the visit of a Soviet delegation to Nouakchott.

CAMEROON

Ahidjo for Peking

President Ahidjo is to visit China from March 25 to April 2. Cameroon recognised China in March 1971, and ambassadors were exchanged last autumn.

• Pope Paul VI has accepted the resignation of Mgr. Ndongmo, former Bishop of Nkongsamba, who was condemned to death in December 1970 for his part in subversive activities, but was reprieved the next month by President Ahidjo. For two years the diocese has been under an apostolic administrator. A new bishop has been named, Mgr. Thomas Nkuissi.

THE GAMBIA

Links with West Germany

Investigations into the feasibility of cultivating barley in The Gambia are to be undertaken following the suggestion that a large German brewery might establish a malt factory and a brewery in the country. The proposal was made during the visit of the Minister of Agriculture of the State of Hesse and the honorary Consul for The Gambia in Frankfurt. Another proposal discussed was the export of meat from The Gambia to Germany, and the cultivation of strawberries, asparagus, melons and flowers for the German market.

A German-Gambian society has been established in West Germany. Among its activities will be the raising of funds to buy agricultural equipment for the Gambian Ministry of Agriculture.

• The Gambia has signed an agreement on scientific and cultural co-operation with the USSR.

• Lady Njaimeh Jawara has been in Guinea as guest of Mme. Andree Toure, during the Cultural Festival held from March 5 to 16.

There were 12,000 artists participating in the festival, including two orchestras from Zaire and one from Cuba.

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Published by the Proprietors, Overseas Newspapers (Agencies) Ltd., at their Editorial, Advertisement and Publishing Offices, Cromwell House, Fulwood Place, London, WC1V 6HZ. Telephone 01 242 0661. Cables: Westnews London PS4. Typesetting and Printing by Colour Press Ltd., Amhurst Terrace London E8 2BT. Telephone 01 254 1345/6 and in Nigeria by Times Press Ltd., Apapa.